



Early Times

Infant & Toddler Connection of Fairfax-Falls Church

703-246-7121

3750 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030

Part of the Infant and Toddler Connection of Virginia

The Vision of the Infant & Toddler Connection of Fairfax-Falls Church is: All infants and toddlers with a developmental need are identified, supported, accepted, included and valued in their family and community.

A Note from the Director

Dear Parents,

The Fairfax County Infant & Toddler program has experienced tremendous growth in service demand over the past two years. Since FY 2010, our growth has been 38%. The funding from the Federal Government and the State of Virginia has remained flat over that period. With inadequate funding to meet the service needs, the Infant & Toddler Connection of Fairfax-Falls Church must limit the services that it can now provide. We find it necessary to take the following actions:

- 1) All new families who have an initial IFSP developed after MARCH 19 will be put on a wait list to begin services.
- 2) All families currently being served will not be able to add any new services.

We do have a request into the State of Virginia for additional funding, but won't hear about the results until after March 16.

To express your concerns to your elected officials, go to http://legis.virginia.gov/l_cit_guide/cit_welcome.html to find out who your legislators are and how to contact them.

All of us at ITC are proud of the work that we do with families and know what a difference it can make for your children (see Page 4 for an inspiring story) and we hope that this situation will be temporary. Please contact me at 703-246-7170 if you have questions or concerns you wish to express to me.

Thank you,
Allan Phillips, Director
allan.phillips@fairfaxcounty.gov



**Infant & Toddler
Connection of
Fairfax-Falls Church**

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ITCFF's PURPOSE

The Infant & Toddler Connection of Fairfax-Falls Church provides early intervention supports and services to infants and toddlers from birth to age three who are not developing as expected or who have a medical condition that can delay normal development. Early intervention supports and services focus on increasing the child's participation in family and community activities that are important to the family. In addition, supports and services focus on helping parents and other caregivers know how to find ways to help the child learn during everyday activities. These supports and services are available for all eligible children and their families regardless of the family's ability to pay.

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INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY REMINDER

ITC follows Fairfax County Public Schools weather related closing (available on Cable Channel 21 or at www.fcps.edu or the FCPS hotline at 800-839-3277)

- ⇒ When FCPS schools are CLOSED due to weather, all appointments are canceled.
- ⇒ When schools announce they will CLOSE EARLY, all appointments scheduled after the announcement are canceled.
- ⇒ When schools announce a LATE OPENING, all appointments beginning before 12N are canceled.
- ⇒ When schools are not in session (school holiday) & FFX County Government has unscheduled leave in effect, all appointments are canceled.
- ⇒ In the above-listed cases, the ITC offices will remain OPEN unless FFX County Govt. CLOSES, in which case all appointments are canceled and ITC offices are closed. See your Welcome Book for complete details.

Recognizing Our Wonderful ITC Peers!

The five peer-nominated Annual ITC Excellence Awards recognize performance above and beyond day to day responsibilities. One award is presented for each of the county's "Areas of Excellence." At ITC's annual holiday celebration, held on December 21, the following employees were honored:

Pam Park, Service Coordinator Supervisor, received the Service Motivation award for her committed service to the public, meeting the needs of customers, fellow employees, and the County, focusing her efforts on finding out about and meeting the needs of others, and sharing information openly. **Kim Pham**, Administrative Assistant, received the Adaptability award for being able and willing to adapt and work effectively in light of new information, changing situations and/or different environments. **Sarah Yang**, Service Coordinator won the Accepting Responsibility award for holding herself accountable for her work and actions and striving for continuous improvement of the County's overall effectiveness. **Dr. Subarna Dharia**, Pediatrician, won the Initiative award for taking independent action and creating opportunities to get the job done and prevent or resolve problems.



(Left to right) Pam Park, Kim Pham, Sarah Yang, Dr. Subarna Dharia, Cathy Gregory

Cathy Gregory, Service Coordinator, received the Respecting Differences award for understanding the differences that others bring, as well as seeking and valuing the input of others. Congratulations to all the winners!

Developmental Milestones Chart for Children

<http://understanding.infantilism.org/chart.php>

Babies Read Lips While Learning to Speak

The little ones are watching our mouths to determine how to shape their own to make particular sounds. A new study suggests that even how we speak is highly observed.

<http://tinyurl.com/76pqr98>

Toddlers & Challenging Behavior

Why do they do it? How to respond? Zero to Three offers multiple tipsheets on how to respond to challenging or aggressive behavior in young children.

www.zerotothree.org/child-development/challenging-behavior/tips-tools-challenging-behaviors.html

Blog Support for Parents

The Friendship Circle's *Among Friends Blog* gives some time-saving tips on where parents of special needs children can find support that will fit into an already hectic life.

<http://tinyurl.com/6q2qpyw>

"My Child Was Just Identified with an Autism Spectrum Disorder: Now What Do I Do?" Online Training Course

The self-paced online course will introduce families to the characteristics, needs, and recommended services for young children with ASD. To participate in the course, go to

www.vcuautismcenter.org/training/courses.cfm

GUIDES AVAILABLE ONLINE:

Websites You Can Use

Virginia Medicaid Waiver Services Guide 2011

<http://vamedicaidwaivers.org>

The guide provides information on eligible services such as assistive technology, personal care, respite and more.

NEW FCPS Special Education Parents Handbook

www.fcps.edu/dss/sei/Handbook/handbook.pdf

Contact the Parent Resource Center for additional information at prc@fcps.edu or 703-204-3941.

Nutrition for Children with Special Health Care Needs Handbook

www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/grow5-x.pdf

This handbook provides practical information regarding common nutrition and feeding problems.

Join the ITC EMAIL LIST—Receive weekly event information & news of interest to your ITC family.

Go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/email/lists/ & enter your email address

1. Click on the circle next to "COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD— Infant & Toddler Connection family resource information and news"
2. Click on "Continue"
3. You will be asked a question regarding the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, to which you will reply yes/no
4. Click on "**Subscribe**" or "**Unsubscribe**"
5. You will receive an automated subscription confirmation request, which you must reply to in order to begin your subscription.

March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Friday & Saturday, April 20 & 21 **\$130.00**
12th Annual Accessibility Summit
 McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna
 This conference is for families, caregivers and professionals. Eustacia Cutler (mother of Dr. Temple Grandin) and Patrick Henry Hughes are the keynote speakers. There will be 30 workshops led by experts and covering a broad range of disability-related topics. Childcare is available. For more info. & registration go to www.accessibilitysummit.org.



SAVE THE DATE!

ITC Family & Staff

ANNUAL PICNIC

Van Dyck Park

Saturday, May 12

11am-2pm

More information coming soon to your mailbox!

Upcoming Workshops/Events

Saturday, March 24 **8:00am-1:45pm**
7th Annual Special Education Conference: Parents + Educators + Students = Success **FREE**
 Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Rd., Burke
 The keynote presentation will be delivered by Rick Lavoie, a nationally known writer and public speaker. Over 30 workshops will be presented by FCPS staff, Cathi Cohen, Dr. Erin Berman, Ann Dolin, and John Eisenberg for families and educators of students who receive special education services in Fairfax County Public Schools. Conference sessions and registration information is available online: <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/conference/> or 703-204-3941.



Monday, March 26 **7:00-9:00pm** **\$20/\$25**
Advocating for Your Child in the Public Schools
 Sponsored by Phoenix Family Counseling & Youth for Tomorrow and presented by Bill Brownley, Esq.
 Youth for Tomorrow—Tammy House Training Room
 Hazel Circle Drive, Bristow
 For more information & to register, go to www.phoenixfamilycounseling.com

Wednesday, March 28 **7:00-9:00pm** **FREE**
Estate Planning for ITC Children with Special Needs
 presented by Michael Toobin, Esq., father of a child who received Early Intervention Services.
 ITC Office, 3750 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax
 Please RSVP to andrea.adelmann@fairfaxcounty.gov.
 Space limited to 50 participants.



Saturday, March 31 **9:00am-2:00pm** **FREE**
Saturday, April 28 **Safety Seat Saturday**
 Fairfax County Public Safety Center, Public Parking Garage
 10550 Page Avenue, Fairfax
 Specially trained and certified sheriff's deputies will help parents and caregivers ensure that a child fits securely in the safety seat and that the safety seat fits securely in the vehicle seat. Bring your vehicle and safety seat(s). Bring your child, too...if he or she is available!

Saturday, April 14th **9:00am-4:00pm**
Eating Problems in Autism Spectrum Disorders: What They Are and What To Do presented by Keith E. Williams, Ph.D., B.C.B.A.-D
 George Mason University Fairfax, Enterprise Hall - Room 80
 In this workshop, information detailing the range of feeding and eating problems found among children with autism spectrum disorders and discuss a variety of empirically-proven treatments for these problems. To register, go to: <http://www.regonline.com/BACBApr2012>

Wednesday, April 18 **7:30-9:00pm**
Updates on Adaptive Functioning in Children on the Spectrum with Dr. Sajjad Khan, Neuroscience, Inc.
 Auburn School, 13525 Dulles Technology Dr., Herndon
 For complete details and to register, go to www.theauburnschool.org/herndonspeaker.



Dana's Story ~ 25 Weeker Achieves Goals




My daughter, Dana, was born at 25 weeks gestation, weighing 1 lb. 4 oz. and measuring 11 inches long. She spent 115 days in the NICU and was ventilated for a little over half that time. I always envisioned that she would be just like the other newborns once we finally got to bring her home, but it was much different. Caring for her was extremely demanding and she seemed slow to progress. With the mindset that Dana would eventually progress like my other babies, I was not planning to do any special activities with her. Fortunately, I had a close friend in Early Intervention who suggested that I enroll Dana. She became my coordinator and we started occupational therapy (OT) when Dana was about 3½ months adjusted, 7½ months actual age. After the first visit, I realized how lucky we were to be getting the help. The therapist assessed our home environment and was quick to come up with solutions that would work in mine and Dana's world. Every visit she came with recommendations to help Dana progress. Most of the time they were activities I would have never thought of that I might have introduced several months later, especially given Dana's condition. I found myself getting up in the middle of every session to grab a little piece of paper to write down the new activities. Then, I'd leave the paper out on the counter to remind others and myself what we were supposed to be focusing on that week. It was comforting having a professional overseeing her development. It was like having a mother's coach, Dana's personal trainer, to tell me what to work on and help me figure out ways that we would fit in the activities in our busy lives. Being in the early intervention program put her development on my list.

The exercises were extremely effective even if we just did them a few times and covered more areas than just motor skills. My occupational therapist asked me and coached me on feeding issues, minor behavioral issues, and had knowledge of language development. We used whatever we had out at the time in our home to support the goals we were working on. There were never tests at the sessions, just excitement of showing off what new things Dana could do. And, even if we hadn't mastered last weeks' exercises, the therapist reminded me to continue to work on the things from the past weeks and then presented new activities. She listened to what I wanted to work on with Dana and helped me find ways to incorporate it into our daily routines. The hour passed extremely quickly.

After 10 months of OT workouts, my 25 weeker graduated needing only minimal speech therapy. She met all her OT goals ahead of schedule. She walks and talks, eats and sleeps well, climbs and gets into everything! All like a baby her age should be doing. I credit her therapist. She helped us work through so many problems and make such huge strides that I really do not know where we would be without her. I'm not sure I would have ever viewed Dana as being a normal, bright and fully capable child had she not encouraged me to get her moving. The therapist's belief in Dana helped me see that I could challenge and encourage her when otherwise I might have just held her and felt sorry for her and myself. Not only was the therapist my coach, she was my cheerleader and always made me feel good about Dana's accomplishments. Last month marked a milestone for Dana; she is now like most other kids her age. I am overjoyed, but sad we will not see the therapist any longer. Now, it is up to me to set goals and keep challenging her. But, I have to say I am looking forward to having Dana's speech therapist come and to guide me through her next stage.

By Melissa

 To request this information in an alternate format, call ITC-FFC, 703-246-7180, 703-538-5292 (TTY). Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations call ITC-FFC, 703-246-7180, 703-538-5292 (TTY). Please allow seven working days in advance of the event in order to make the necessary arrangements.

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Address Correction Requested